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CIA recruiter seeks Triangle applicants

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For The News and Observer

Colleen Bradley says the CIA is a cozy, comfortable place to work.

"We're very much a family organization," Mrs. Bradley, a CIA recruiter, told about two dozen job seekers at the Sheraton Crabtree Motor Inn Wednesday. "We have self-contained facilities including doctors, nurses and lawyers. . . . We have bus drivers, waiters, waitresses and a credit union. Anything, you name it."

Mrs. Bradley was in Raleigh recruiting clerk-typists, stenographers and other workers for the CIA, the nation's chief spy agency. She said the CIA was expanding and had numerous positions to fill, mostly in clerical support.

"I'm really interested. I'd like to get into photography," said Michael S. Walker of Carrboro.

Asked about the controversial nature of CIA work, Walker said, "It doesn't bother me. You can't believe all the things you hear."

In her presentation, Mrs. Bradley stressed the fringe benefits that a CIA typist or stenographer would enjoy. She said the Washingtonian magazine had rated the CIA as one of the top six employers in the Washington area.

CIA employees can take advantage of in-house training from a staff that rivals those of major universities, said Mrs. Bradley, whose father worked for the CIA. She said night school programs are taught by University of Vir-

ginia faculty.

She touted the agency's discount store and full gymnasium, including a weight-training center with full-time counselors and an indoor track with piped-in music at the CIA headquarters.

But the CIA is not looking for just any typist and stenographer. Typists must type 40 words per minute for five minutes with no more than two errors, and stenographers must take dictation at 80 words per minute, she said.

She also said each applicant must be at least 17½, a high school graduate and a U.S. citizen. Applicants must pass a test of math ability, verbal skills and "name and number assimilation."

Applicants who meet the requirements fill out a 17-page application that gives the CIA permission to conduct a background check that costs more than \$5,000, Mrs. Bradley said. She said the check goes back "15 years or to your 17th birthday, whichever one comes first."

Working for the CIA also means submitting to a polygraph test.

"You'll be asked questions about Soviets. Do you have Soviets running in and out of your back door every night?" she said. She also said the agency asks questions about factors that might leave workers vulnerable to blackmail.

Applying for a job with the CIA takes between three and six months, Mrs. Bradley said.